# Official Testimonial Dinner Program

# Honoring Emilio Grandinetti

*Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America*

*This publication complements the Grandinetti Retirement Dinner document published in the Internet Archive July 2026. The event occurred at the Hotel Sinton, Cincinnati Ohio, on January 10, 1948. The pages that follow are the original dinner program and include official tributes from union leaders, a contemporary biographical sketch of Grandinetti, and lists of officers and local unions.*

*Note: This document is one part of a planned collection related to Emilio Grandinetti's labor union career, as well as a larger project aiming to preserve the memories of the two generations of Grandinettis that preceded mine.*

Scanned from an original program preserved by the Grandinetti family.

# Testimonial

TENDERED TO

**GENERAL ORGANIZER**

## EMILIO GRANDINETTI

BY THE

Cincinnati Joint Board

AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS
OF AMERICA

1898

# Testimonial Dinner

1947

Tendered to

GENERAL ORGANIZER

## EMILIO GRANDINETTI

by the

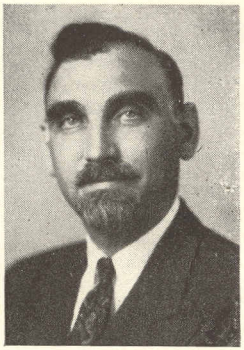
## CINCINNATI JOINT BOARD, A. C. W. OF A.

In Recognition of Forty-Nine Years of Service to his Fellow Workers, and upon his Retirement from Active Service with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

JANUARY 10, 1948

GRAND BALLROOM — HOTEL SINTON

CINCINNATI, OHIO

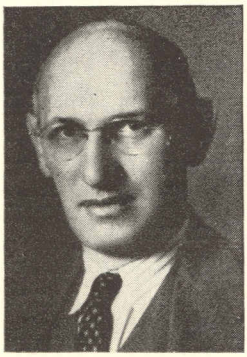


I HAVE known Brother Grandinetti since my early days in Chicago 1913-1916. He played a great role in the growth, struggles and achievements of our beloved Organization in Chicago, Cincinnati and the Midwest.

Brother Grandinetti is a veteran organizer who exhorted the tailors to organize from many a platform. He can be properly regarded as one of the grand old men of our Organization. He trudged the picket lines on many fronts. He made every sacrifice the Organization ever called upon him to make and has earned a rest.

Both for myself and in behalf of our National Organization, I express our deep affection and appreciation, and we wish him long years of health and happiness which he so richly deserves.

Jacob S. Potofsky, General President
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America



TODAY the exploited sweat shop worker is a citizen of the clothing industry, with a voice and a vote in matters pertaining to his future welfare and security: a voice to express concern over threats to his welfare, and a vote that something constructive is done to prevent them; a voice and a vote that help to determine the hours he shall work, the conditions he shall work under and the wages he receives for work performed.

The emergence of the oppressed non-union clothing worker as a full fledged citizen in the clothing industry, did not just happen. It was not an accident, but rather the result of hard conscientious work over many long years. This result was achieved by the efforts of many intelligent, courageous, and conscientious men and women who gave of themselves toward the building of the labor union we know as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Outstanding among these men of vision is our guest of honor, Emilio Grandinetti. Since the very earliest days of the Union, it has been my privilege to direct his organizational efforts, and I have always found him ready, willing and able to answer his Union's call to duty.

Yes, Brother Grandinetti has made a very important contribution to the building of our Organization, and I wish to express my appreciation for his valuable service. May he have many more years of life to enjoy the fruits of his Labor in happy contemplation of his accomplishments and of work well done.

Frank Rosenblum,
General Secretary-Treasurer.
Amalgamated Clothing Workers
of America

IN the trade union movement, even in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, we seldom take the time, or have the opportunity, to express our appreciation of the character of a fellow worker: his courage, his ability and his devotion to a cause that gives rich meaning to this life of ours.

Upon Emilio Grandinetti's arrival from his native Italy he found work in the clothing industry, one of the worst exploited industries in America. Life for the sweat shop clothing worker was insecure, and a continuous struggle to keep body and soul together, which resulted in continuous, if oftentimes, fruitless attempts to form a strong Union.

To this goal Emilio Grandinetti devoted a full lifetime. Chicago, Cincinnati, and many other cities, owe a debt of gratitude to him for his unselfish work in assisting them to establish their Unions.

In the struggles on the picket lines, and in peaceful times, he has made an invaluable contribution to the progress of our Organization. Never discouraged in the face of what often appeared insurmountable obstacles, he fought on to see his hopes and ambitions realized.

Today, he sees a proud, powerful Amalgamated Clothing Workers protecting the interests of over 300,000 members, secure in their employment, and earning sufficient wages to enjoy their leisure, protected in sickness, old age and at time of death.

After a full and rich life, rich not in worldly goods, but rich in service, rich in accomplishments and rich in the admiration and affection of thousands of staunch friends, Emilio Grandinetti has fully earned the leisure his Union is granting him.

As you lay aside your Organizational responsibilities, we say to you, well earned, well deserved, Compagno Emilio.

Jack Kroll, Vice President
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America
Manager, Cincinnati Joint Board,
Director, CIO Political Action Committee

THE Cincinnati Joint Board and its membership regrets the time that comes in every man's life when he leaves his active duties, so ably performed, to allow younger men to carry on.

Brother Emilio Grandinetti has been indeed, an asset to our Organization. Always in the forefront of organizational activities, he made a decided contribution to the Cincinnati Organization and to the Amalgamated in general.

He could always be found on the picket line in hot weather or in cold, early in the morning and late at night, whenever a strike was in progress, directing and advising the strikers.

He is a man of character, intelligence and ability, and is highly respected by all persons who come in contact with him.

Long a champion of the working men and women, he will be sorely missed by our membership. Mere words cannot express our appreciation for his work in the Cincinnati market, but I know he has the everlasting gratitude of the membership.

Brother Emilio Grandinetti we salute you for your efforts in our behalf and wish you many more years of a fruitful life with your beloved ones.

Arthur Hartmann, Associate Manager
Cincinnati Joint Board, A. C. W. of A.

# Emilio Grandinetti

## Worker and Soldier in the Ranks of Labor

1882—October 27, born in Catanzaro, Calabria, Italy.

1898—At the age of 16 he became Secretary of the Socialist Party Branch in Reggio, Calabria.

Student at the Superior Institute of the College of Engineering in Messina, Sicily.

1900—Became Assistant Editor of the Socialist Journal, "Germinal" at Messina, Italy. Also Propagandist for the Socialist Party in the Regions of Calabria and Sicily, and was active in the Chamber of Labor at Reggio, Calabria and Messina, Sicily.

1906—Came to America as a refugee from Italy to evade a jail sentence imposed upon him for articles written against the King of Italy and the Monarchy.

1910—Actively engaged in the general strikes of the tailors in Chicago, Coal City, Lamont, Chicago Heights and Bellville, Illinois. He also cooperated with the Chicago Federation of Labor in organizing several industries, especially during the strike of the Chicago stockyard workers, and the Western Electric strike at Argo, Illinois.

1913—Participated, indirectly, in the tailors' general strike of Cincinnati through his directorship of the Chicago edition of the Journeymen Tailors' publication, "Il Riscatto".

As Organizer for the Journeymen Tailors Union, he cooperated in the organization of the general strike of tailors in Chicago, at which time he went into the service of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

1914—Successful in bringing together the Journeymen Tailors Union and the insurgent group within the United Garment Workers of America, headed by Sidney Hillman.

First came to Cincinnati in 1914.

1916—Organization Drive in Cincinnati. Together with the local people, succeeded in organizing Schwartz and Dreyfuss, Columbia Tailoring Company and reached an agreement with the Seinsheimer Company.

1918—Worked as Organizer in the Drives that unionized the Chicago market 100%.

1919—Took part in the Organization Drives in Cincinnati, Rochester, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Duluth, Minnesota.

1922—Took an active part in the Curley Clothing Company strike at St. Louis, and also in the general strike in that city.

1922-1937—Took part in Organization Drives in mid-Western cities and particularly in Cincinnati, where the drive for unionism culminated in complete organization of the market in 1937.

1937-1947—In addition to his duties as General Organizer for the Amalgamated, he has always been active in numerous liberal movements, particularly among the Italian communities. He has also been in the forefront in the anti-Fascist movement in America since the early days of Fascism. He lent his services during the war to the Office of War Information. He is today aiding the American Committee for Italian Relief, collecting funds, clothing and food for war-torn Italy.

## A Rivederci' Brother Grandinetti =

May you enjoy your leisure in Good Health, Peace and Happiness for many long years to come. We shall look forward to frequent visits from you.

●

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